

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 8. (canceled)

1 9. (currently amended) An apparatus for applying a
2 coating liquid to a web moving in a travel direction, the apparatus
3 comprising:

4 a hopper defining a distribution chamber extending
5 transversely of the direction, a flow face extending generally in
6 and transverse to the web-travel direction, a slot extending
7 between the chamber and the flow face and elongated transversely of
8 the direction, and a supply passage opening centrally into the
9 chamber;

10 means connected to the passage for supplying the coating
11 liquid centrally to the chamber, thence through the slot to the
12 flow face, and thence along the flow face and for dropping the
13 liquid as a transversely extending and downwardly flowing curtain
14 from an edge of the flow face onto the web;

15 a pair of transversely spaced edge guides having upper
16 guide elements having transversely confronting faces and fittable
17 complementarily to the flow face, the upper guide elements lying in
18 a use position substantially directly on the flow face to limit
19 liquid flow to a region thereon defined between the transversely
20 confronting faces that hence define the width of the curtain; and

21 means for transversely positioning the edge guides and
22 thereby adjusting the curtain width.

23 10. (currently amended) ~~The coating apparatus defined~~
24 ~~in claim 9 wherein each edge guide further comprises~~ An apparatus
25 for applying a coating liquid to a web moving in a travel
26 direction, the apparatus comprising:

27 a hopper defining a distribution chamber extending
28 transversely of the direction, a flow face extending generally in
29 and transverse to the web-travel direction, a slot extending
30 between the chamber and the flow face and elongated transversely of
31 the direction;

32 means for supplying the coating liquid to the chamber,
33 thence through the slot to the flow face, and thence along the flow
34 face and for dropping the liquid as a transversely extending and
35 downwardly flowing curtain from an edge of the flow face onto the
36 web;

37 a pair of transversely spaced edge guides having upper
38 guide elements having transversely confronting faces and fittable
39 complementarily to the flow face, the upper guide elements lying in
40 a use position substantially directly on the flow face to limit
41 liquid flow to a region thereon defined between the transversely
42 confronting faces that hence define the width of the curtain;

43 means for transversely positioning the edge guides and
44 thereby adjusting the curtain width; and

45 [[a]] respective lower guide elements each having an
46 inner face aligned vertically with the face of the respective upper
47 guide element, the lower guide elements being fixed to and
48 transversely displaceable with the respective upper guide elements.

1 11. (currently amended) The coating apparatus defined
2 in claim 10, further comprising
3 means at lower ends of the lower guide elements for
4 aspirating the coating liquid.

1 12. (currently amended) The coating apparatus defined
2 in claim 10, further comprising
3 means for releasably securing the lower guide elements to
4 the respective upper guide elements.

1 13. (previously presented) The coating apparatus defined
2 in claim 12 wherein the releasable securing means includes finger-
3 operable screws.

1 14. (previously presented) The coating apparatus defined
2 in claim 9 wherein the flow-face edge is curved and fits with the
3 upper guide element.

1 15. (previously presented) The coating apparatus defined
2 in claim 9 wherein the flow face inclines downward from the slot to
3 the edge.

16. (canceled)

1 17. (currently amended) The coating apparatus defined
2 in claim [[16]] 9, further comprising:
3 a pair of transversely spaced inserts each substantially
4 blocking the slot and the chamber; and
5 means for transversely displacing the inserts and thereby
6 setting a transverse width of the chamber and slot.

1 18. (currently amended) ~~The coating apparatus defined~~
2 ~~in claim 17, further comprising~~ An apparatus for applying a
3 coating liquid to a web moving in a travel direction, the apparatus
4 comprising:

5 a hopper defining a distribution chamber extending
6 transversely of the direction, a flow face extending generally in
7 and transverse to the web-travel direction, a slot extending
8 between the chamber and the flow face and elongated transversely of
9 the direction, and a supply passage opening generally centrally
10 into the chamber;

11 means connected to the passage for supplying the coating
12 liquid centrally to the chamber, thence through the slot to the

13 flow face, and thence along the flow face and for dropping the
14 liquid as a transversely extending and downwardly flowing curtain
15 from an edge of the flow face onto the web;

16 a pair of transversely spaced edge guides having upper
17 guide elements having transversely confronting faces and fittable
18 complementarily to the flow face, the upper guide elements lying in
19 a use position substantially directly on the flow face to limit
20 liquid flow to a region thereon defined between the transversely
21 confronting faces that hence define the width of the curtain;

22 means for transversely positioning the edge guides and
23 thereby adjusting the curtain width;

24 a pair of transversely spaced inserts each substantially
25 blocking the slot and the chamber;

26 means for transversely displacing the inserts and thereby
27 setting a transverse width of the chamber and slot; and

28 structure linking the inserts to the respective guides
29 for joint transverse displacement therewith, the inserts having
30 confronting inner faces aligned vertically with the faces of the
31 respective upper guide elements.

1 19. (previously presented) The coating apparatus defined
2 in claim 18 wherein the hopper includes end plates laterally
3 flanking the inserts and the chambers, the structure including rods
4 passing transversely through the end plates and having inner ends
5 fixed to the inserts.

1 20. (currently amended) The coating apparatus defined
2 in claim 9, further comprising
3 means for lifting the upper guide elements off the flow
4 face during transverse displacement of the upper guide elements.